

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 21, 2021 8:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR: HB 3556

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Andrew Renwick

self - Engineer

Seabrook, TX

I served as a VDR for Harris County in 2020. I think this bill would make it much harder to become a VDR and thus I think it's not in the public interest for this bill to be passed. I work a 40 hour/week job and finding time to take this training in person would have been difficult. Not to mention, in such a large county, I may have needed to drive a considerable distance to get to the closest VDR training. The training I undertook to become a VDR via Zoom was sufficient and answered all of my questions. While I agree that in person trainings are better suited, I think volunteers should have the freedom and flexibility to choose whether to attend in person or virtually. If the VDR training was in-person only, I think that would discourage people from becoming VDRs and for the sake of democracy and encouraging more citizens to vote, I think this bill is detrimental.

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Wendy McRoberts, Mrs.

Self

Danbury, TX

Volunteer Deputy voter registrars should continue to be trained virtually as well as in person. Texas has a low percentage of vaccinated people at this moment. The training is verified and appropriate for even non pandemic times where rural people may not have as many opportunities for training. The easier and more involved the electorate, the better outcomes for all of us.

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shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

vote yes, this training should be in person

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Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes.

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Paula Clark

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill

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RICHARD BOHNERT

self A/C contractor

COMFORT, TX

My name is Richard Bohnert. I lived in Comfort, Texas Kerr county and I am in favor of HB 3556. Please pass this bill out of committee. Thank you.

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Virginia Sidrony

Self Fort Bend County VDR

Sugar Land, TX

Chairman Cain, Vice-Chairman Gonzalez, and other Elections Committee members, my name is Virginia Sidrony. I am a long-time resident of Fort Bend County, and I am a constituent of Representative Jetton.

I am extremely concerned that this bill does not really have anything to do with "Voting Integrity", but actually have more to do with "Voter Suppression".

HB 3556 – I oppose this entire bill. As you well know, this ongoing pandemic has required county election officers to be creative in safely training much-needed Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars. Because the law made by this legislature requires VDVRs to be trained in every odd-numbered year, we were grateful that we were able to be safely re-trained online. There is no guarantee that there will not be another pandemic or other health and/or safety problem in the future. Without taking any of the aforementioned possibilities into account, I see no need to require that VDVR training ALWAYS be forced to be performed in a building. This could very easily be construed as "Voter Suppression", because VDVRs register thousands of eligible voters FOR FREE every year.

I sincerely hope this Committee will give careful consideration to my concerns, as well as those of others, relative to this worrisome bill.

Thank you.

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Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

Support: It is so important to have one on one contact. Video and Zoom calls don't support personal interactions and pursuit of answers. The sterile communication techniques of COVID does not encourage an understanding of the importance supporting election integrity.

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Beth Biesel, TEF Election Integrity Chair

Texas Eagle Forum (TEF)

Dallas, TX

Texas Eagle Forum supports this bill.